REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The claims have been amended responsive to the note formal objections. Applicant appreciates the identification of these needed changes.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 18-22 are directed to allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 12-15 were rejected as anticipated by SUZUKI 6,970,263.

SUZUKI was filed in the U.S. on June 29, 2001 and accordingly has a priority date of June 29, 2001.

The present application claim priority to Japanese application JP No. 2000-389990 filed December 22, 2000. In order to perfect applicant's claim of prior to December 22, 2000, attached is a verified English-language translation of the priority application JP No. 2000-389990 filed December 22, 2000.

Having perfected applicant's claim of priority to December 22, 2000, SUZUKI is not prior art to the present invention and the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.
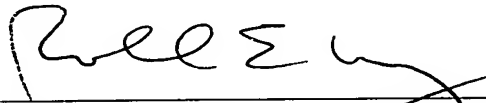
There being no other outstanding matters, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

☐ - a terminal disclaimer

☐ - a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration

☐ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure

☐ - a Replacement Sheet for Figure   of the drawings

☐ - a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the
    originally-filed specification

☒ - a verified English translation of foreign priority
document